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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS
OF
BENNINGTON, N. H.,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
MARCH 1, 1878.

PETERBORO':
PRINTED AT THE "TRANSCRIPT" PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.
1878.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

To the parents of children, and to the legal voters of the town of Bennington :

In presenting this Annual Report of our common schools, I would say it is not easy to calculate, in dollars and cents, the profit or loss we have sustained during the past year. The merchant, or the agent in our mills, takes an account of stock at some time in the year, and when the twelve months revolve, can conclude to a fraction how much has been made or lost. But in our common school system it is not so. Seed may be sown, principles implanted, desires and hopes awakened, whose fruit will not appear till "after many days." While some of the schools have made good progress, in others it was very perceptible that disorder and idle habits were painfully present. We are far from believing this was *wholly* the fault of the teacher. Other causes may have operated outside of the school room, to more than counterbalance the influences of the teacher within. 'Tis only when parents, scholars, and teachers work together that the best results are obtained. A scholar commences a term of school, and for some wilful violation of the school law, is punished. At

the first convenient opportunity he takes his books and goes home. What, now, is the duty of the parent? If you have the well-being of your child at heart, you will send him back again, and let him know, decidedly, that he cannot violate the school laws with impunity. If you wish to have him grow up a law-breaker and expert in all villainies, sustain him in his opposition to wholesome school discipline. Adopt for one year the old Puritan method, "*if you get punished at school, I'll whip you at home,*" and the cry of poor schools would soon die out. Let every parent realize that the teacher is a fellow-builder with them in rearing the framework of their children's character, and that their and our happiness depends upon the right training they receive. "Train up a child in the way he should go" is as necessary to-day as it was two thousand years ago. If our schools are not fully up to the standard of average years, let every parent and tax-payer work. Work in sustaining the teacher in enforcing obedience to every needful rule and regulation of the school room. Work, in sending every truant scholar to school, and not have the registers disfigured with tardy and absent marks. When this is done our schools will prosper as in the past. Leave not the whole care of the training of your children to the teacher; nor their moral and religious training to the minister, but work yourselves with them to this great end, and let the best results of the past be your encouragement for the future. If from our hillsides and valleys, scholars, educated in our schools, have gone out into the various avocations and business of life, an honor to themselves and to the mental training they received in our com-

mon schools, let us see to it that we take no step backward nor suffer the efficiency of our schools to degenerate, but rather, year by year, increase their usefulness and make them a beacon light, whose rays shall shine far down to posterity.

I have avoided in this report personal strictures upon the teachers and schools, as the expediency of it may be questionable. To hold up to the public gaze the faults of teachers may injure the feelings of some and dampen their prospects for the future. We pretend to no infallibility, and might do injustice where censure was not deserved; or we might extol some that were deserving of censure; human fallibility is liable to err, and many of the apparent faults of teachers are traceable directly or indirectly to the parents themselves.

The Prudential Committees in the several districts have attended to their duty, and manifested a strong desire for the welfare of the schools. The school-house in District No. 2 needs some extensive repairs before another term. Let it be done, and you will receive a rich dividend in the health and comfort of your children. That part of Union District belonging to Bennington should be united with No. 1, where the advantages are better and the very few scholars could be better accommodated and have a much longer school. The addition of two new globes, one in the primary and one in the grammar school in No. 1, has been productive of much good to those studying geography. It would be money well invested if a small sum was annually expended for illustrative apparatus in all our schools.

In conclusion, I would urge upon parents the importance of having your children promptly at the school room at the opening of the school. The following is a list of the names of those who have not been absent or tardy during the term :

ROLL OF HONOR.

	TERMS. 1st. 2d.		TERMS. 1st. 2d.
Fred P. Waite,	"	Alonzo George,	"
Adah M. Colby,	" "	George Gray,	" "
James R. Colby,	" "	George Knight,	"
Willie Colby,	" "	Mary L. Martin,	"
Fred H. Colby,	" "	Lura Ross,	"
Mary A. Bullard,	"	Ellen Eaton,	"
Harry Flanders,	"	Edwin Whitney,	"
Charles W. Smith,	"	Willie B. Whitney,	"
Anna F. Colby,	"	Addie M. Taylor,	"
Hillman Burt,	" "	Fred L. Wilson,	"
Anna Garside.	"	David Rogers,	"
Edward George,	"		

Amount of School Money in each District: District No. 1, \$461.26; District No. 2, \$76.74; District No. 3, \$27.47.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. FLEMING, S. S. Com.

Bennington, March 1, 1878.

Bible; Hillard's series of Readers; Colburn's Mental and Greenleaf's series of Arithmetics; Cornell's and Harper's Geographies; Kerl's Grammar; Quackenbos' History U. S.; Dunton & Scribner's system of Penmanship.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

The Selectmen to the Town,

DR.

To tax on Favor's list of 1875,	\$ 53 47	
" " " 1876,	161 91	
George Colby's list of 1877,	3050 17	
Received for use of town hall,	31 00	
	<u> </u>	\$3296 55

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By paying Treasurer \$70.00 from Favor's list,	\$70 00	
Money received for use of town hall,	31 00	
Uncollected tax on Favor's list of 1875,	53 47	
" " " " " " 1876,	91 91	
Money paid Treasurer from Colby's list,	2591 62	
Uncollected tax on Colby's list,	458 55	
	<u> </u>	\$3296 55

WILLIAM EATON, Treasurer, to the Town,

DR.

To balance of money from last year,	\$ 53 90	
Money from Favor's list of 1876,	70 00	
Money for use of town hall,	31 00	
Non-resident highway receipts,	51 17	
Cash from Colby's list,	2540 45	
Railroad tax,	25 26	
Literary fund,	33 97	
Savings bank tax,	252 87	
Money of Selectmen,	800 00	
" " " " " " "	100 00	
From County for tramps, 1876,	60 35	
" " " " " " 1877,	25 75	
Selectmen,	127 80	
Town of Antrim,	28 88	
	<u> </u>	\$4202 40

CR.

By paying State tax,	\$436 00	
County tax,	248 49	
Non-resident highway receipts on Colby's list,	51 17	
	<u> </u>	\$735 66

MONEY PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Benjamin D. Felch, 1st Selectman,	\$31 15
Wesley Willson, 2d Selectman,	25 00
John C. Dodge, 3rd Selectman,	20 00
Augustus W. Gray, Town Clerk,	12 00
Wm. Eaton, Treasurer,	15 00
John H. Fleming, S. S. Committee,	16 00
George Colby, Collector,	32 39
Benjamin D. Felch, Overseer of Poor,	6 50
Francis M. Hills, Auditor,	2 00
John H. Fleming, Auditor,	2 00
G. A. Ayer, Constable, 1876,	12 00

174 04

NOTES AND INTEREST PAID.

Paid C. S. A. Hodskins,	\$ 50 22
Josephine Gray,	218 57
Mary E. Dodge,	464 16
Josie M. Taylor,	150 00
Josie M. Taylor,	200 00
Emerson Favor,	25 00
Abram Burttt,	217 00
Wm. Eaton,	103 25
John Dodge, donation to the Congregational society,	12 00
George E. Hills,	157 40
Mary C. Eaton,	47 53
Isaac Proctor,	4 85
William Eaton,	100 00

\$1749 98

MISCELLANEOUS TOWN EXPENSES.

Paid express on town books,	\$ 40
Edward Grace, damage on highway,	50 00
Gust Walker, sewer caps and express,	3 40
John L. Fleming,	7 95
Farnum & Scott, printing,	16 00
Express on County tax,	56
F. B. Gould, repairing fire engine,	4 40
Abram Burttt, lumber and labor,	56
S. Forsaith, for stove,	9 90
Morrill & Sillsby,	19 17
F. B. Gould, care of engine,	25 00
George E. Colby, watering trough,	1 50
Levi Colby, watering trough,	3 00
George Andrew Whittemore's bill,	7 50
Engine men,	84 75
Luke Proctor, labor,	4 50
B. D. Felch,	13 00
George Dodge, bounty on hawks and foxes,	2 60
Wesley Willson, work on lobby and journey to Manchester and Nashua,	22 63
Wm. Willson taking care of hall,	12 00
" " expense of hall,	10 80
A. & G. A. Whittemore, rent of engine house,	12 00

\$311 62

RECAPITULATION.

Money and receipts put into the Treasurer's hands
from March 1, 1877, to March 1, 1878, \$4202 40

We credit the treasurer with paying the following sums:

By paying State and County tax,	\$684 49	
Non-resident highway receipts on Colby's list,	51 17	
School Orders,	565 47	
Support of Paupers,	140 62	
Roads and Bridges,	249 21	
Breaking Roads,	97 83	
Notes and Interest paid,	1749 98	
Town Officers,	174 04	
Miscellaneous Town Expenses,	311 62	
		\$4024 43
Leaving a balance in the treasury of		\$177 97

TOWN LIABILITIES, MARCH 1, 1878.

Notes due from town:

No.	1,	\$ 29 60	11,	634 69
	2,	200 76	12,	153 22
	3,	169 04	13,	956 67
	4,	561 80	14,	334 70
	5,	1498 60	15,	81 11
	6,	230 09	16,	1312 11
	7,	284 60	17,	390 40
	8,	85 25	18,	522 85
	9,	1230 86	19,	313 68
	10,	282 31	20,	117 40
				\$9439 74

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

Tax on Favor's list of 1875,	\$53 47	
Favor's list of 1876,	91 91	
Colby's list of 1877,	458 55	
Balance in treasury,	177 97	
		\$781 90
Total indebtedness of the town,		\$8657 84
Reduction of debt from last year,		\$682 24

We have examined the above report of the Selectmen and Treasurer, and find it accurately cast and properly vouched.

JOHN H. FLEMING, }
FRANCIS M. HILLS, } Auditors.



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REPORT OF THE SEXTON OF THE TOWN OF BENNINGTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 23, 1878.

	y.	m.	d.	Died.	Disease.	Place of Burial.
Charles Gray,	76			May 12,	Cancer,	Bennington.
Hattie M. Dodge,	25	5	6	May 25,	Infl. bowels,	Concord.
Inez B. Pond,	4			June 20,	Cons'ption,	Bennington.
Sally Willson,	96			Sept. 13,	Dysentery,	Greenfield.
Harriet Newton,	77	1	28	Nov. 12,	Cons'ption,	Bennington.
Susie M. Darrah,	7	5	6	Jan. 14,	Diphtheria,	Bennington.

In addition to the above, the following were brought here for interment:

Samuel Dascomb, 75 years, Greenfield, May 16.
Prudence Ober, 75 years, 10 months, Peterborough, dropsy.

EDWARD E. SMITH, Sexton.